

## CLAIMS

1. An epoxy group-containing silicon compound which is obtained by condensing at least one epoxy group-containing alkoxy silicon compound per se represented by the general formula (1a):  $R_{1a}Si(OR_2)_3$ , wherein  $R_{1a}$  denotes a substituent having an epoxy group and  $R_2$  denotes an alkyl group having at most 4 carbons, in the presence of a basic catalyst.
2. An epoxy group-containing silicon compound which is obtained by condensing at least one epoxy group-containing alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1a):  $R_{1a}Si(OR_2)_3$ , wherein  $R_{1a}$  denotes a substituent having an epoxy group and  $R_2$  denotes an alkyl group having at most 4 carbons, and at least one substituted alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1b):  $R_{1b}Si(OR_3)_3$ , wherein  $R_{1b}$  denotes an alkyl group having at most 10 carbons, an aryl group or an unsaturated aliphatic residue and  $R_3$  denotes an alkyl group having at most 4 carbons, in the presence of a basic catalyst.
3. The epoxy group-containing silicon compound as set forth in Claim 1 or 2, wherein  $R_{1a}$  is a glycidoxy(C1-C3)alkyl group or an alkyl group substituted with a cycloalkyl group of 5-8 carbons having an oxirane group in each of said at least one epoxy group-containing alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1a).
4. The epoxy group-containing silicon compound as

set forth in Claim 2, wherein  $R_{1b}$  is an alkyl group having at most 6 carbons or an aryl group in each of said at least one substituted alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1b).

5. The epoxy group-containing silicon compound as set forth in Claim 2, wherein  $R_{1a}$  is a glycidoxy(C1-C3)alkyl group or an alkyl group substituted with a cycloalkyl group of 5-8 carbons having an oxirane group in each of said at least one epoxy group-containing alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1a), and wherein  $R_{1b}$  is an alkyl group having at most 6 carbons or an aryl group in each of said at least one substituted alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1b).

6. A thermosetting resin composition containing (i) the epoxy group-containing silicon compound as set forth in any one of Claims 1-5 and (ii) a curing agent.

7. The thermosetting resin composition as set forth in Claim 6, which further contains an epoxy resin other than the above-mentioned (i).

8. The thermosetting resin composition as set forth in Claim 6 or 7, which further contains an accelerator and/or an organic solvent.

9. A cured product obtained by curing the thermosetting resin composition as set forth in any one of Claims 6-8.

10. A method for producing an epoxy group-containing silicon compound, which comprises condensing

at least one epoxy group-containing alkoxy silicon compound per se represented by the general formula (1a):  $R_{1a}Si(OR_2)_3$ , wherein  $R_{1a}$  denotes a substituent having an epoxy group and  $R_2$  denotes an alkyl group having at most 4 carbons, in the presence of a basic catalyst.

11. A method for producing an epoxy group-containing silicon compound, which comprises condensing at least one epoxy group-containing alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1a):  $R_{1a}Si(OR_2)_3$ , wherein  $R_{1a}$  denotes a substituent having an epoxy group and  $R_2$  denotes an alkyl group having at most 4 carbons, and at least one substituted alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1b):  $R_{1b}Si(OR_3)_3$ , wherein  $R_{1b}$  denotes an alkyl group having at most 10 carbons, an aryl group or an unsaturated aliphatic residue and  $R_3$  denotes an alkyl group having at most 4 carbons, in the presence of a basic catalyst.

12. The method as set forth in Claim 10 or 11, wherein  $R_{1a}$  is a glycidoxy(C1-C3)alkyl group or an alkyl group substituted with a cycloalkyl group of 5-8 carbons having an oxirane group in each of said at least one epoxy group-containing alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1a).

13. The method as set forth in Claim 11, wherein  $R_{1b}$  is an alkyl group having at most 6 carbons or an aryl group in each of said at least one substituted alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general

formula (1b).

14. The method as set forth in Claim 11, wherein R<sub>1a</sub> is a glycidoxy(C1-C3)alkyl group or an alkyl group substituted with a cycloalkyl group of 5-8 carbons having an oxirane group in each of said at least one epoxy group-containing alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1a), and wherein R<sub>1b</sub> is an alkyl group having at most 6 carbons or an aryl group in each of said at least one substituted alkoxy silicon compound represented by the general formula (1b).